

## REMARKS

These remarks are made responsive to the first non-final office action mailed June 15, 2005.

The specification has been amended to reference four other applications related by subject matter to this application.

An information disclosure statement has also been enclosed herewith along with the fee of \$180.00.

Claims 1-16 have been cancelled. Claims 17-25 have been added.

In the action mailed June 15, 2005, the Examiner rejected now cancelled claims 1-6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ching, 6,078,901, in view of Thiesson et al., 6,807,537, rejected now cancelled claims 7, 9-12, 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thiesson et al., 6,807,537 in view of Ching, 6,078,901 and rejected claims 8 & 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thiesson et al., 6,807,537 in view of Ching, 6,078,901 in further view of Amado 5,701,400.

New independent claim 17 has been added and is distinguished from the now cancelled claims 1-16. For example, claim 17 is directed to a method for constructing a Bayesian network used to diagnose an issue in a stock brokering domain. Additionally, the method comprising at least one other element not taught by the prior art of record such as "identifying causes of the stock brokering issue" or "estimating costs for the actions and questions set out in the diagnostic steps." Claims 18-20 provide further limitations not taught by the prior art of record.

New independent claim 21 has been added and is distinguished from the now cancelled claims 1-16. For example, claim 21 is directed to a method for using a Bayesian network to diagnose an issue in a stock brokering domain. Additionally, the method comprising at least one other element not taught by the prior art of record such as "responsive to identifying the at least one issue, identifying a cause connected via at least one directed edge in the Bayesian network with the identified issue" or "traversing at least one directed edge from the identified cause to an action in the Bayesian network." Claims 22-23 provide further limitations not taught by the prior art of record.

The comments with respect to claim 17 are applicable to claim 24 as well. The comments with respect to claim 21 are applicable to claim 25 as well.

Conclusion

In light of the arguments presented above, new claims 17-25 as amended are in condition for allowance, and applicants respectfully request a prompt notice of allowance.

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Respectfully Submitted on Behalf of Applicants

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